

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LENDING 01727 211458Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INR-07 MED-02
NSAE-00 PA-01 HA-05 CA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 HEW-04
AID-05 FDRE-00 DODE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00
/069 W

-----115938 211505Z /50

O P 211416Z DEC 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3802
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LENINGRAD 1727

DEPARTMENT FOR WALSH: OES/ENP; PLEASE PASS AIDAC OFDA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, OSCO, TBIO, SZ, HK, UR
SUBJ: INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC IN USSR

REF: (A)STATE 301942, (B) LENINGRAD 1702 (NOTAL), (C) MOSCOW 18136

1. CONGENOFF MET DECEMBER 21 WITH GEORGIY KARPUKHIN, DIRECTOR OF ALL UNION SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR INFLUENZA LOCATED IN LENINGRAD TO DISCUSS CURRENT FLU EPIDEMIC IN USSR. INFLUENZA INSTITUTE IS THE CENTRAL REPORTING AND COLLECTING POINT FOR INFLUENZA INFORMATION THROUGHOUT THE USSR. KARPUKHIN PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

2. EXTENT AND LOCATION OF EPIDEMIC: ACCORDING TO KARPUKHIN, CURRENT EPIDEMIC IS A PRIME H1N1 TYPE VIRUS. IT BEGAN 14 NOVEMBER IN KHBAROVSK, SPREADING FROM THERE TO EASTERN REGIONS OF USSR. BY BEGINNING OF DECEMBER, EPIDEMIC HAD SPREAD TO VIRTUALLY EVERY MAJOR CITY IN USSR. CURRENTLY 60-70
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LENDING 01727 211458Z

SOVIET CITIES ARE AFFECTED. INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN COUNTRY-SIDE IS 4-8 TIMES LESS THAN IN THE CITIES. AVERAGE MORBIDITY IN USSR CITIES IS 15-25 PERCENT ALTHOUGH CITIES IN CAUCASUS ARE MAJOR EXCEPTION AT THIS POINT, SUFFERING LESS THAN OTHERS.

3. SPECIAL ASPECTS: KARPUKHIN STATED THAT THERE ARE NUMBER OF UNUSUAL AND SPECIAL ASPECTS TO CURRENT FLU OUTBREAK. THESE IN-

CLUDE: (A) NO ONE HERE HAD PREDICTED OUTBREAK OF A PRIME H1N1. NORMAL RANGE FOR ANY FLU STRAIN IN THE USSR IS 10-12 YEARS. BUT SOVIETS WERE EXPECTING OUTBREAK OF A NEW STRAIN RATHER THAN OF CURRENT STRAIN WHICH IS TYPE VIRUS WHICH CAUSED 1947-56 GLOBAL EPIDEMIC. (B) AS SOON AS A PRIME APPEARED IN SOVIET UNION, A2 STRAIN INFECTIONS DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY. THIS PHENOMENON MAY BE LIMITED TO SOVIET UNION ONLY BUT IS CONSIDERED "HIGHLY CURIOUS" IN VIEW OF FACT THAT A2 HAS BEEN DOMINANT FLU STRAIN HERE IN RECENT YEARS. (C) FLU INSTITUTE IS NOT YET CERTAIN WHAT IMPACT MASSIVE FLU INNOCULATIONS THIS FALL MIGHT HAVE ON NEW STRAIN. ACCORDING TO KARPUKHIN 1,800,000 LENINGRADERS ALONE WERE VACCINATED AGAINST FLU TYPE A2 THIS FALL. THUS FAR THERE IS NO EXPERIENCE OF IMPACT THIS MASSIVE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN WILL HAVE ON NEW A1 STRAIN ALTHOUGH EXPERTS HERE TEND TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL HELP AT LEAST TO SOME EXTENT. (D) FIGURES AT THE FLU INSTITUTE INDICATE THAT FLU PEAKED IN LENINGRAD DECEMBER 20, ON SCHEDULE. PREDICTIONS HAD BEEN FOR PEAK IN PERIOD 19-24 DECEMBER. EXPERTS EXPECT FLU TO RUN ITS COURSE IN 3-6 WEEKS BUT ARE NOT YET SURE WHETHER THIS WILL MATERIALIZE. IF SO, IT WOULD BE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN LAST YEAR'S B2 EPIDEMIC WHICH TOOK NEARLY 2 MONTHS TO RUN ITS COURSE. (E) FLU INSTITUTE EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT CURRENT EPIDEMIC IN SOVIET UNION WILL HAVE LARGELY RUN ITS COURSE BY JANUARY 15.

4. EASTERN EUROPE: ACCORDING TO KARPUKHIN, CONFERENCE OF FLU SPECIALISTS OF EASTERN EUROPE WAS HELD IN EAST BERLIN LAST WEEK. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 Lening 01727 211458Z

CURIOUSLY, THERE WERE NO REPORTED CASES OF NEW A1H1N1 STRAIN OUTSIDE SOVIET UNION AT THAT TIME AND THIS CONTINUES BE CASE. KARPUKHIN REPORTED THIS AS UNUSUAL PHENOMENA GIVEN RAPID AND EFFICIENT REPORTING TECHNIQUES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FACT THAT THERE ARE EPIDEMICS IN SUCH SOVIET CITIES AS MINSK AND LVOV WHICH ARE RELATIVELY CLOSE TO BORDER. SOVIET EXPERTS ARE CONTINUING CLOSE COOPERATION WITH FLU EXPERTS AROUND THE WORLD. SOVIET ALL UNION COORDINATING COUNCIL ON FLU MET IN MOSCOW ON DECEMBER 6 TO DISCUSS NEW FLU SITUATION AND FLU CULTURES WERE SENT AT THAT TIME TO ATLANTA, LONDON AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CENTERS AROUND WORLD.

5. VIRULENCE: VIRULENCE AND MORTALITY RATE OF CURRENT EPIDEMIC ACCORDING TO KARPUKHIN IS LESS THAN NORMAL FOR FLU EPIDEMIC, AT LEAST AT THIS POINT. KARPUKHIN ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS STILL INSUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE IN SOVIET UNION TO INDICATE THAT THIS WILL REMAIN THE CASE. GREATEST VIRULENCE SEEMS TO BE AMONG CHILDREN. DOCTORS HERE ARE SPECULATING THAT THIS MAY BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ANTI-BODIES AMONG ADULTS AND AGED, GOING BACK TO 1947-56 EPIDEMIC. FLU, HOWEVER, BROKE OUT FIRST AMONG ADULTS IN 16-25 YEAR AGE GROUP, ANOTHER ASPECT OF ITS UNUSUAL CHARACTER SINCE NORMALLY FLU OUTBREAKS IN USSR

OCCUR FIRST AMONG CHILDREN AND AGED.

6. THIS REPORT HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY MOSCOW.
BUCHANAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EPIDEMICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LENING01727
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770475-1268
Format: TEL
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771232/aaaabaqv.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fa2d16ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 301942, 77 LENINGRAD 1702, 77 MOSCOW 18136
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 160626
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC IN USSR
TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TBIO, SZ, HK, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fa2d16ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009